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Jack the Giant-Killer

**The history of Jack
and the giants**

London

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THE

HISTORY

OF

JACK and the GIANTS.

PART the FIRST.



L O N D O N,

Printed and Sold in ALDERMARY CHURCH-
YARD, BOW-LANE.

THE
FIRST PART
OF THE
HISTORY
OF
JACK and the GIANTS.

CHAP. I.

Of his Birth, Parentage, and Discourse
with a Country Vicar, when but seven
Years old.

IN the reign of King Arthur, near to
the Land's End of England, in the
county of Cornwall, lived a wealthy far-
mer, who had a son named Jack. He
was brisk, and of a ready wit, so that
whatever he could not perform by force
and strength, he compleated by wit and
policy; never was any person heard of
that could worst him. Nay, the very
learned many times he has baffled by his

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unning and sharp inventions. For in-
ance, when he was no mote than seven
ears of age, his father the farmer lent
im into the field to look after his oxen,
hich were then feeding in a pasture. A
untry Vicar by chance coming cross
he field called to Jack, and asked him,
ow many commandments there were?
ack told him Nine. — The parson
eplied, There are Ten. — Nay, says Jack,
Mr. Parson, you are out in that ; it is
ue there were Ten, but you have broke
one of them with your maid Margery.



The parson replied Thou art an arch
wag, Jack. — Well, Mr. Parson, quoth
me, you have asked me one question and
I have answered it ; I beseech you to let
me ask you another : — Who made King

Oxen.—The Parson replied, God, my child. — Why now you are out again, says Jack, for God made them Bulls, but my father and his man Hobson made them Oxen.—These were the witty answers of Jack.

The parson seeing himself thus foiled by this witty boy, trudged away, leaving him in a laughter.



C H A P. II.

Of a Giant's inhabiting the Mount of Cornwall, and what Spoil he made in the Neighbourhood.

IN those days the Mount of Cornwall was kept by a large and monstrous Giant of eighteen feet high, and about three yards in circumference, of a fierce and grim countenance, the terror of the neighbouring towns and villages.

His habitation was in a cave in the midst of the mount; never would he suffer any living creature to keep near him. His feeding was on other mens cattle, which often became his prey; for whenever he wanted food, he would wade over to the main land, where he would well furnish himself with whatever he could find; for the people at his approach would all forsake their habitations. Then would he seize upon their cows and oxen, of which he would make nothing to carry over upon his back, half a dozen at one time: and as for their sheep and hogs,

he would tie them round his waist like a bunch of candles. — This he practised for many years, so that a great part of the county of Cornwall was very much impoverished by him.



C H A P. III.

Of Jack's slaying the Monster, and from that Time obtained the Name of Jack the Giant Killer.



JACK having undertaken to destroy this voracious monster, he furnished himself with a horn, a movel, and a pick-ax, and over to the mount he goes, in the beginning of a dark winter's evening, where he fell to work, and before morning had digged a pit of twenty-two feet deep, and almost as broad, covering the same over with long sticks and straw, and then strewing a little of the mould over it, it appeared like plain ground.—

Then putting his horn to his mouth, he blew tantivy, tantivy ; which noise awakened the Giant, who came roaring towards Jack, crying out you incorragih'e villain, you shall pay dearly for disturbing me, for I will broil you for my breakfast. These words were no sooner spoke but he tumbled headlong into the pit, and



his heavy fall made the foundation of the mountain shake.—O! Mr. Giant, quoth Jack, where are you now? faith, you are got into Lob's pound, where I will plague you for your threatening words. What do you think now of broiling me for your breakfast? Will no other diet serve you but poor Jack.—Having thus tantalized the giant for a while, he struck him a mighty blow upon the crown with

his pole-ax that he tumbled down, and with a groan expired.—This done Jack threw the dirt in upon him, and so buried him. Then searching the cave, he found much treasure.

Now, when the magistrates who employed Jack heard that the job was over, they sent for him, declaring he should be henceforth called Jack the Giant Killer; and in honour thereof presented him with a sword and an embroidered belt, upon which these words were written in letters of gold:

Here's the valiant Cornish man,
Who slew the Giant Cormoran.



C H A P. V.

Jack is surpris'd by a Giant while asleep;
and the Danger he went through to
gain his Liberty.

THE news of Jack's victory was soon spread over the western parts, so that another Giant, called Old Blunderbore, hearing of it, vowed to be revenged on Jack if it ever was his fortune to light on him. The Giant kept an enchanted castle situated in the midst of a lonesome wood. About four months after, as Jack was walking by the borders of this wood in his journey towards Wales, he grew weary, and therefore sat himself down by the side of a pleasant fountain, when a deep sleep suddenly seized him. At this time the Giant coming there for water, found him, and by the lines upon his belt immediately knew him to be Jack, who had killed his brother Giants. So without any words, he took him upon his shoulder to carry him to his enchanted castle. As he passed through a thicket

the rustling of the boughs awaked Jack, who find himself in the clutches of the Giant was much surpris'd, though it was but the beginning of the castle, he found the floor strewd, and the walls covered, with the skulls and other bones of dead men; when the Giant told him his bones should enlarge the number of what he



law. He then brought him into a large parlour, where lay the blood and quarters of some lately slain; and the next room were hearts and livers; when the Giant, to terrify him, told him that mens hearts were his favourite diet, which he said, he most commonly eat with pepper and vinegar; adding that he did not question but his heart would make him a curious

breakfast.—This said, he locks up poor Jack in an upper room, leaving him there while he went out to fetch another giant, who lived in the same wood, that he also might partake of the pleasure they should have in the destruction of honest Jack. While he was gone dreadful shrieks and cries affrighted Jack, especially a voice which continually cried,

Do what you can to get away,
Or you'll become the Giant's prey;
He's gone to fetch his brother, who
Will likewise kill and torture you.

This dreadful noise so affrighted poor Jack, that he was ready to run distracted. Then going to a window he opened the casement, and beheld afar off the two Giants coming together.—So now quoth Jack to himself, my death or deliverance is at hand. There were two strong cords in the room by him, at the end of which he made a noose, and as the Giants were unlocking the iron gates, he threw the ropes over each of the giants heads, and then threw the other end across a beam, where he pulled with all his might till he

had throttled them. And then fastening the ropes to a beam, he returned to the window, whence he beheld the two Giants both black in the face, and so sliding down the ropes, he came upon the heads of the helpless Giants, who could not defend themselves; and drawing his own sword, he slew them both, and so delivered himself from their intended cruelty. Then taking the bunch of keys he entered the castle, where, upon strict search, he there found three ladies tied up by the hair of their heads, and almost starved to death, who told Jack, That their husbands had been slain by the Giant, and that they had been kept many days without food, in order to force them to eat the flesh of their murdered husbands, which they could not do if they were to be starved to death. — Sweet ladies, said Jack, I have destroyed the monster and his brutish brother, by which means I have obtained your liberties. — This said he presented them with the keys of the castle, and proceeded on his journey to Wales.

C H A P. VI.

Jack travels into Flintshire, and of what happened there.

JACK having got a little money, he thought it prudent to make the best of his way by travelling hard ; and at length losing his road he was benighted, and could not get a place of entertainment, till coming to a valley between two hills, he found a large house in a lonesome place, and by reason of his present necessity, he took courage to knock at the gate ; but to his amazement there came forth a monstrous Giant, having two heads, yet he did not seem so fiery as the other two, for he was a Welsh Giant, and all he did was by private and secret malice, under the false shew of friendship. Jack telling his condition, he bid him welcome, shewing him into a room with a bed, where he might take his night's repose.—Upon this Jack undresses himself, and as the Giant was walking towards another apartment, Jack heard him mutter these words to himself :

Tho' here you lodge with me this night,
 You shall not see the morning light,
 My club shall dash your brains out quite.



Say you so, says Jack, is this one of your Welch tricks? I hope to be as cunning as you. Then getting out of bed, and feeling about the room in the dark, he found a thick billet, and laid it in the bed in his stead, and then hid himself in a dark corner of the room. In the dead time of the night came the Giant, with his club, and struck several blows on the bed, where Jack had artfully laid the billet, and then he returned back to his own room, supposing he had broken all his bones. Early in the morning Jack came to thank him for his lodging. O! said the

Giant, how have you rested? did you feel any thing in the night? No, said Jack, but a rat gave me three or four flaps with it's tail.

Soon after the Giant went to breakfast on a great bowl of hasty pudding, giving Jack but a little quantity; who being loath to let him know he could not eat with him, got a leather bag, putting it artfully under his coat, into which he put his pudding, telling the Giant he would shew him a trick; so taking a large knife he ripped open the bag which the Giant thought to be his belly, and out came the hasty-pudding; which the Welch Giant seeing, cried out, Cots pluv, hur can do that hurself; and taking up the knife he ripped open his belly, from top to bottom, and out dropped his tripes and trullybubs, so that he immediately fell down dead.

Thus Jack outwitted the Welch Giant and proceeded on his journey.

C H A P. VI.

King Arthur's Son goes to seek his Fortune, meets Jack ; and the wonderful Things performed by him while they travelled together.



KING Arthur's only son desired his father to furnish him with a certain sum of money, that he might go and seek his fortune in the principality of Wales, where a beautiful lady lived, whom he had heard was possessed with seven evil spirits.

The King his father counselled him against it, yet he could not be persuaded ; so the favour was granted, which was one

horse loaded with money, and another to ride on. Thus he went forth without any attendants; and after several days travel he came to a large market town in Wales, where he beheld a vast crowd of people gathered together. The king's son demanded the reason of it, and was told that they had arrested a corpse for many large sums of money, which the deceased owed before he died. The King's son replied, It is a pity that creditors should be so cruel; go bury the dead, and let the creditors come to my lodgings, and their debts shall be discharged; accordingly they came, and in such great numbers, that before night he had almost left himself penniless. — Now Jack the Giant Killer being there, and seeing the generosity of the King's son, desired to be his servant: it being agreed on, the next morning they set forward, when riding out at the town's end, an old woman cried out, he has owed me two-pence seven years, pray, Sir, pay me as well as the rest. He put his hand in his pocket, and gave it her, it being the last he had left; then turning to Jack, he said, Take no thought nor care, let me alone, and I

warrant you we will never want. Now Jack had a small spell in his pocket, the which served for a refreshment; after which they had but one penny left between them. They spent the forenoon in travel and familiar discourse, until the sun grew low, when the king's son said, Jack, since we have got no money where can we lodge to-night? Jack replied, Master, we'll do well enough, for I have an uncle who lives within two miles of this place; he is a huge and monstrous Giant, having three heads, he will beat five hundred men in armour, and make them fly before him. — Alas! said the king's son, what shall we do there? he will eat us up at a mouthful; nay, we are scarce sufficient to fill one hollow tooth. It is no matter for that, says Jack, I myself will go before and prepare the way for you; tarry here, and wait my return. He waited, and Jack rode full speed, and coming to the castle gate he immediately began to knock with such force that all the neighbouring hills rebounded. The Giant roaring with a voice like thunder, Who is there? None but your poor cousin Jack. And what news? said he, with

my cousin Jack? He replied, dear uncle heavy news, Cot wot. — Prithee what heavy news can come to me? I am a Giant with three heads; and besides, thou knowest I fight five hundred men in armour, and make them all fly like chaff before the wind. — O! said Jack, but here is a king's son coming with a thousand men in armour to kill you, and to destroy all you have. — O! my cousin Jack, this is heavy news indeed; but I have a large vault under-ground where I will run and hide myself, and you shall lock, bolt, and bar me in, and keep the keys till the king's son is gone. — Jack having now secured the Giant, returned and fetched his master, and both made merry with the best dainties the house afforded. — In the morning Jack furnished his master with fresh supplies of gold and silver, and having set him three miles on the road out of the Giant's smell, he returned and let his uncle out of the hole, who asked Jack what he should give him for his care, seeing his castle was not demolished. Why, said Jack, I desire nothing but your old rusty sword, the coat in the closet, and the cap and the shoes

at your bed's head.—Aye, said the Giant, thou shalt have them, and be sure keep you them for my sake, they are things of excellent use. — The coat will keep you invisible, the cap will furnish you with knowledge, the sword cuts asunder whatever you strike, and the shoes are of extraordinary swiftness. They may be serviceable to you, so take them with all my heart. Jack took them, and immediately followed his master.



C H A P. VII.

Jack saves his Master's Life, and forces
the Evil Spirit out of the Lady.

JACK having overtook his Master, they soon arrived at the Lady's dwelling, who finding the King's son to be a suitor, prepared a banquet for him, which being ended, she wiped her mouth with a handkerchief, saying, You must shew me this to-morrow morning, or lose your head ; and then put in her own bosom. The King's son went to bed right sorrowful, but Jack's Cap of Knowledge instructed him how to obtain it. In the midst of the night she called upon her Familiar to carry her to Lucifer. Jack whipped on his Coat of Darknes, with his shoes of Swiftness, and was there before her ; but could not be seen by reason of his Coat of Darknes, which rendered him perfectly invisible to Lucifer himself. When she came she gave him the handkerchief, from whence Jack took it, and

brought to his master, who shewing it the next morning to the lady, saved his life. This much surprised the lady, but he had a harder trial to undergo. — The next night she salutes the King's son, telling him he must shew her the next day the lips she kissed last, or lose his head. So I will, replied he, if you kiss none but



mine. It is neither here nor there for that, says she ; if you do not death is your portion. At midnight she went again, and chid Lucifer for letting the handkerchief go ; but now, said she, I shall be too hard for the king's son ; for I will kiss thee, and he is to shew me the lips I kissed last, and he can never shew me thy lips. Jack standing up with his sword of sharpness, cut off the Devil's head, and

brought it under his invifible coat to his master, who laid it at the end of his bolster ; and in the morning when ſhe came up, he pulled it out by the horns, ſhewing her the devil's lips which ſhe kiſſed laſt. Thus answering her twice, the enchantment broke, and the evil ſpirit left her, to their mutual joy and ſatisfaction: then ſhe appeared her former ſelf, both beautiful and virtuous. — They were married the next morning, and ſoon after returned with joy to the court of King Arthur, where Jack, for his good ſervices was made one of the Knights of the Round Table.

Thus ends the **First Part**, which leads to the **Second**, where you may have a farther account of the valiant exploits and bold adventures of this noble hero Jack the Giant Killer.

End of the FIRST PART.